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Extract from the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its 2004 annual session (7-11 June 2004)

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session of 2004

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* E/2004/100 and Corr.1 and Corr.2.

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2004/6. *Draft country programme documents*

The Executive Board

(a) *Approves* the aggregate indicative budgets for the following country programmes of cooperation:

Region/country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2004/*
Eastern and Southern Africa				
Angola	2005-2008	22 584 000	68 000 000	P/L.1
Burundi	2005-2007	10 908 000	27 000 000	P/L.2
Madagascar	2005-2009	25 710 000	42 000 000	P/L.3
Zimbabwe	2005-2006	3 850 000	14 000 000	P/L.4
West and Central Africa				
Cape Verde	2005	611 000	450 000	P/L.5
Americas and Caribbean				
Southern Cone (Argentina, Chile and Uruguay)	2005-2009	5 900 000	18 800 000	P/L.6
East Asia and the Pacific				
Malaysia	2005-2007	1 500 000	1 500 000	P/L.8
Philippines	2005-2009	11 570 000	32 000 000	P/L.9
CEE, CIS and Baltic States				
Armenia	2005-2009	3 405 000	3 569 000	P/L.10
Azerbaijan	2005-2009	4 760 000	4 700 000	P/L.11
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2005-2008	2 468 000	13 000 000	P/L.12
Kazakhstan	2005-2009	4 920 000	2 216 000	P/L.13
Kyrgyzstan	2005-2010	5 562 000	3 000 000	P/L.14
Romania	2005-2009	3 385 000	11 615 000	P/L.15
Serbia and Montenegro	2005-2009	3 325 000	36 500 000	P/L.16
Tajikistan	2005-2009	6 405 000	20 000 000	P/L.17
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2005-2009	3 060 000	10 000 000	P/L.18
Turkmenistan	2005-2009	4 680 000	1 300 000	P/L.19
Uzbekistan	2005-2009	9 260 000	8 560 000	P/L.20
Middle East and North Africa				
Islamic Republic of Iran	2005-2009	7 880 000	5 500 000	P/L.21
Iraq	2005-2006	3 872 000	196 700 000	P/L.22

(b) *Approves* an increase in the other resources ceiling for the Iraq country programme for 2004 in the amount of $140,000,000 (E/ICEF/2004/P/L.23).

Annual session
8-9 June 2004

2004/7. *Timing of the approval of the UNICEF biennial support budget*

The Executive Board,

Affirming the principle that "the plan drives the budget",

Agreeing that the biennial support budget should be formulated after the programme has been sufficiently articulated through the development of the draft country programme document for country offices, and the office management plans for headquarters and regional offices;

Decides that:

1. The biennial support budget for 2006-2007 will be reviewed at the first regular session in January 2006;

2. At the second regular session of 2005, an advance allocation will be approved for spending for the month of January 2006, based upon the previous year's expenditures for January.

Annual session
10 June 2004

2004/8. *Joint programming*

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report on the assessment of the UNICEF experience of joint programming contained in document E/ICEF/2004/10;

2. *Decides* to defer the consideration of a decision to the first regular session in 2005.

Annual session
11 June 2004

2004/9. *The UNICEF evaluation function*

The Executive Board,

1. *Commends* UNICEF for the quality of the report on the evaluation function contained in document E/ICEF/2004/11, the important progress that it reflects, and its thoroughness in identifying areas for improvement and future challenges;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made to date by the evaluation function in responding to new demands, particularly the increased emphasis on the achievement of results of programmes involving UNICEF, in the context of United Nations operational activities and inter-agency work at the country level;

3. *Notes* that much work remains to be done, including sharpening the strategic focus of evaluation work plans, improving efficiency and raising the overall standards of evaluation work;

4. *Emphasizes* that the evaluation function should be carried out in consultation with national authorities and in compliance with decision 2002/9 (E/ICEF/2002/8/Rev.1);

5. Bearing in mind the above, *encourages* the further strengthening of the evaluation function in UNICEF, with particular emphasis being given to progress in the following areas:

(a) Improving the efficiency and strategic value of the evaluation function by focusing on fewer, high-quality studies, with a strong emphasis on analysing effectiveness and results;

(b) Continuing to improve the standards of evaluation at the country level, with the guidance of national authorities and building on United Nations system-wide norms and standards for evaluation, with the technical support of the Evaluation Office and regional offices;

(c) Accelerating progress towards joint evaluation work with national authorities, United Nations system and other partners, including with respect to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

(d) Continuing and expanding work with national authorities and other partners, and the United Nations country teams, to strengthen national capacity for evaluation work;

(e) Identifying best practices from evaluations for achieving the targets and objectives of the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan (MTSP), and ensuring that procedures are implemented to enable the findings from evaluations to be systematically fed into the organization to secure organizational learning;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a further report on the work of the evaluation function for consideration by the Executive Board at its annual session in 2006;

7. *Further requests* that key findings from evaluations of the thematic areas of the MTSP be presented and discussed at the Executive Board as and when these become available.

Annual session
11 June 2004